

Independent Evaluation and Audit Services (IEAS)

Independent Evaluation Service (IES)



REPORT ON THE EVALUATION FUNCTION

of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2019

Lisa Sutton, *Director*, Independent Evaluation and Audit Services (IEAS)

Inga Sniukaite, *Chief*, Independent Evaluation Service (IES)

OVERVIEW

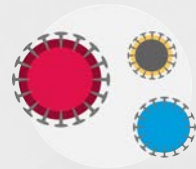


Revision of the UN Women Evaluation Policy



2019 Annual Report of the UN Women Evaluation Function

- Corporate and decentralized evaluations
 - Performance of the Evaluation Function
 - Evaluations fostering change
 - Gender equality and human rights in the work of UNEG
-



Evaluation in 2020 in the context of COVID-19

Revision of the UN Women Evaluation Policy

2019 Evaluation Policy Revision



EVALUATION POLICY

Effective in **January 2013**, the UN Women's Evaluation Policy governs the evaluation function and aligns with the **norms and standards of the UNEG**. The policy was tailored specifically to the unique mandate of UN Women to **conduct gender-responsive evaluations**.

The three assessments (UNEG, JIU, GEAC) concluded that UN Women's evaluation policy provided a **solid framework for the evaluation function**



LIGHT REVISION

Light revision of the evaluation policy led by the Independent Evaluation Service (IES)



NORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Based on a normative assessment of the document against recognized international standards, the needs of UN Women stakeholders



BENCHMARKING

Benchmarking with relevant policies of other UN agencies



CONSULTATION

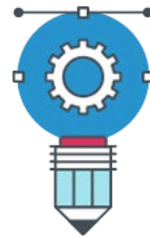
Informal consultation with the Executive Board members on policy revisions, 3 April 2020

Key revisions

THREE SETS OF CHANGES



Policy in line with contextual changes **in UN-Women and the UN system (UN reform)** and the establishment of the **Independent Evaluation and Audit Services (IEAS)**



Non-substantive changes to better reflect updated UNEG Norms and Standards, **new evaluation practices** and to improve readability



Separation of evaluation management content to streamline the policy document

Other Key Revisions

EVALUATION BUDGET RANGE

from 2% to 3% of programme expenditure



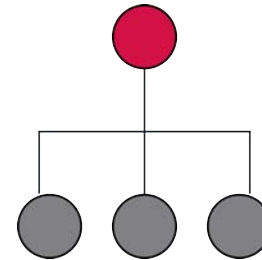
- + evaluation budget = value it provides to UN Women and its rights holders
- + flexibility
- + frame of reference
- + the right evaluations at the right time

NEXT STEPS

- **Informal consultation** on evaluation with the Executive Board (8 June 2020) together with the annual report on the Evaluation function
- **Endorsement of proposed revisions** by the Executive Board during its annual session (22-24 June 2020)

EVALUATION GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Strengthened Advisory Committee on Oversight



- + The ACO replaces the GEAC and assumes greater role
- + The ACO terms of reference and membership strengthened
- + The ACO advises the Executive Director on a range of issues including the strategy, work plan and quality assurance of the evaluation function
- + The ACO reports annually to the Executive Board

Annual report on UN Women evaluation function, 2019

FOCUS AREA 1

Corporate Evaluations

Corporate evaluations ensured comprehensive coverage of UN Women Strategic Plan 2018-2021

COMPLETED

3



Corporate Evaluation on **Governance and National Planning**



Corporate Evaluation on **Humanitarian Assistance**



2018 Meta-synthesis

2

ONGOING



Corporate evaluation of UN-Women's support to National Action Plans (NAP) on **women, peace and security (WPS)**



2019 Meta-synthesis with a focus on **organizational effectiveness and efficiency**



Joint Evaluation of the Common Chapter ongoing



Evaluation evidence gap mapping analysis completed

36

Evaluations Completed

6

Country Portfolio Evaluations (CPE)

4

Regional Evaluations

17

Programme/
Project Evaluations

5

Joint Evaluations

2

Thematic Evaluations

2

Country-led Evaluations

FOCUS AREA 2

Decentralized Evaluations



Synopsis of key strategic decentralized evaluations included in 2019 Annual Report

- Innovation: new practice introduced in 2019
- Increased transparency and accountability

Launch of a pilot implementation modality in 2019



- IES staff assumes greater role in leading and conducting strategic evaluations
- Completed in 2019: Papua New Guinea CPE
- Initiated in 2019 & ongoing : Caribbean Multi-country Portfolio Evaluation, Nigeria CPE
- Further expansion of this modality in 2020

TRENDS IN KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

KPI

2019

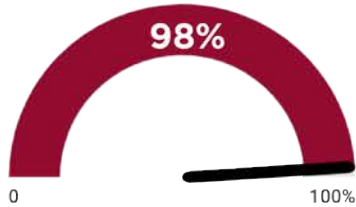
2021 TARGET

Financial resources for evaluation



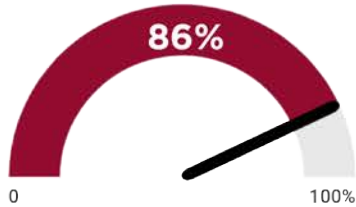
3% of programme expenditure invested in evaluation

Human resources for M&E



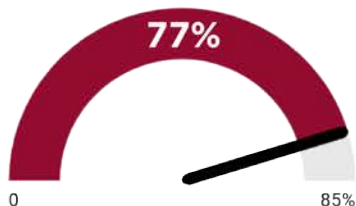
100% of offices appointed an M&E focal point or officer

Evaluation Coverage



100% of offices conducted at least 1 evaluation per SN cycle

Evaluation Implementation Rate



85% of planned evaluations implemented

KPI

2019

2021 TARGET

Quality of evaluation reports



100% of evaluations rated "Good and above"

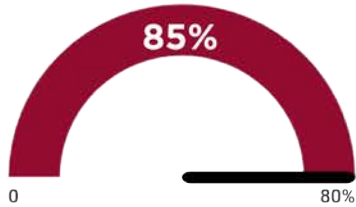
* This figure refers to 26 of 38 evaluation reports, rated as "Good and above". In 2019, 95 per cent (36 of 38 reports) were rated as "Fair and above".

Management response (MR) submission rate



100% of evaluation reports submitted with MR

Implementation of management response



80% of MR key actions being implemented

Use of evaluation



90% of offices that reported using evaluation

Steps taken to improve the performance of indicators



EVALUATION COVERAGE

New coverage norms, evidence gap mapping, greater oversight on decentralized evaluation plans and implementation from HQ, IEAS management in key corporate SN and AWP review processes



EVALUATION IMPLEMENTATION RATE

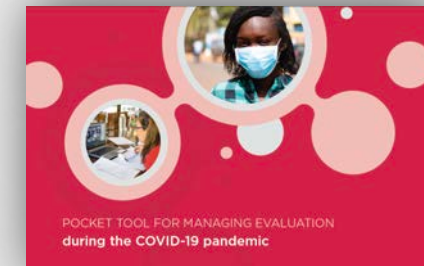
Prioritizing the conduct of strategic evaluations (regional, CPEs and cluster thematic evaluations), provision of technical assistance and quality assurance by 6 Regional Evaluation Specialists



QUALITY OF EVALUATION REPORTS

Greater role of IES staff in conducting strategic evaluations, GERAAS external quality assessment, development of guidance and tools for gender-responsive evaluation methods

Examples of evaluation guidance and tools developed in 2020



FOCUS AREA 3

UN System-wide Coordination



- Co-convoked the **Human Rights and Gender Equality Working Group**
- Contributed to the development of the design, monitoring and evaluation companion guide of the **UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Guidance**
- Co-convoked **Humanitarian Evaluation Interest Group** and active engagement in other UNEG groups

UNDAF META-SYNTHESIS



Led the finalization of the inter-agency meta-synthesis of UNDAF evaluations (2015–2019) with a gender lens

UN-SWAP



Continued to serve as the **Secretariat of the UN-SWAP** evaluation performance indicator

34%

In 2019, 34 per cent of the UN-SWAP reporting entities reported exceeding requirements for the indicator – **an increase of 3 percentage points from 2018.**

FOCUS AREA 4

National Evaluation Capacity Development

National Capacity Development

Country-led evaluations

Evaluations on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment National Actions Plans (NAPs) in Jordan and Serbia in 2019

Workshops and trainings

ISE4GEMs Workshops with the German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval)

Big Data and Evaluation event co-organized with the Rockefeller Foundation



Partnership

In the work of the EvalGender+, IES continued disseminating the findings and results of the review of Voluntary National Reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on understanding how evaluative evidence related to gender has been used to inform development.

Evaluation in 2020 in the context of COVID-19

EVALUATION IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

Adjusting corporate and decentralized evaluation plans



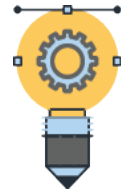
HEALTH & SAFETY

Ensure the health and safety of staff, beneficiaries, and all relevant stakeholders



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Engage stakeholders to ensure the process is responsive to the context, transparent, and inclusive



GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Define your objectives, scope, and key evaluation questions ensuring a gender perspective and exploration of the impacts of COVID-19



REMOTE DATA COLLECTION

Identify appropriate methods for gender responsive remote data collection



Strategic Plan Study

Focus on Flagship Initiatives and Thematic Priorities

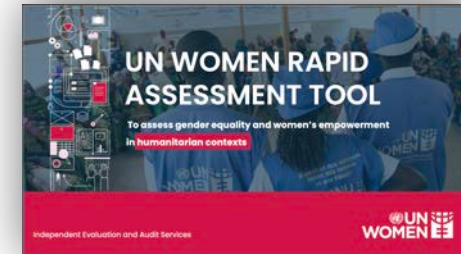
EVALUATION IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

**Providing
evaluative evidence
and tools to support
UN Women's
COVID-19 response**



LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons learned from UN Women's response to Ebola and Zika



HUMANITARIAN RAPID ASSESSMENT TOOL

Development of the UN Women Rapid Assessment Tool to evaluate gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian action



UNEG COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK FORCE

Coordinating with UNEG and UN sister agencies (part of UNEG Covid-19 response task force)

CONCLUSION



Maintaining a **high-quality** UN Women evaluation function to promote accountability and learning



Evaluations fostering **corporate change**

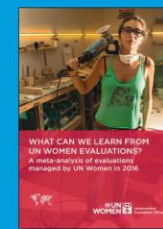


Integration of **gender equality perspectives** within UN System and beyond

THANK YOU

Find all corporate evaluations at:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/accountability/evaluation/corporate-evaluations>



Find us on Twitter



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